IN THE CLAIMS:

1-11. (Canceled)

12. (Currently Amended) A catalyst body comprising

(1) a honeycomb carrier having at least one main component;

(2) a catalyst layer comprising

(a) an alkali metal,

(b) a heat-resistant inorganic oxide, and

(c) a noble metal loaded on the heat-resistant inorganic oxide, and

(3) an anchor substance present in the catalyst layer that reacts predominantly with said alkali metal ~~in a manner that dominates over~~, whereby any reaction between main components of the carrier and said alkali metal is suppressed and the deterioration of the carrier is suppressed.

13. (Currently Amended) A catalyst body according to Claim 12, wherein the anchor substance that reacts predominantly with the alkali metal~~, dominating over the reaction between the main components of the carrier and the alkali metal~~ is at least one member selected from the group consisting of B, Al,

Si, P, S, Cl, V, Cr, Mn, Ga, Ge, As, Se, Br, Zr, Mo, Sn, Sb, I and W.

14. (Previously Presented) A catalyst body according to Claim 12, wherein at least one member of the noble metal loaded on the heat-resistant inorganic oxide is selected from the group consisting of Pt, Pd and Rh.

15. (Previously Presented) A catalyst body according to Claim 12, wherein the main component of the carrier is cordierite.

16. (Currently Amended) A catalyst body comprising

(1) a honeycomb carrier having at least one main component;

(2) a catalyst layer comprising

(a) an alkali metal,

(b) a heat-resistant inorganic oxide, and

(c) a noble metal loaded on the heat-resistant inorganic oxide, and

(3) an anchor substance present in the carrier that reacts predominantly with said alkali metal ~~in a manner that dominates over~~, whereby any reaction between main components

of the carrier and said alkali metal is suppressed and the deterioration of the carrier is suppressed.

17. (Currently Amended) A catalyst body according to Claim 16, wherein the anchor substance that reacts predominantly with the alkali metal~~, dominating over the reaction between the main components of the carrier and the alkali metal~~ is at least one member selected from the group consisting of B, Al, Si, P, S, Cl, Ti, V, Cr, Mn, Ga, Ge, As, Se, Br, Zr, Mo, Sn, Sb, I and W.

18. (Previously Presented) A catalyst body according to Claim 16, wherein at least one member of the noble metal loaded on the heat-resistant inorganic oxide is selected from the group consisting of Pt, Pd and Rh.

19. (Previously Presented) A catalyst body according to Claim 16, wherein the main component of the carrier is cordierite.

20. (Currently Amended) A catalyst body comprising

(1) a honeycomb carrier having at least one main component;

(2) a catalyst layer comprising

(a) an alkali metal,

(b) a heat-resistant inorganic oxide, and

(c) a noble metal loaded on the heat-resistant inorganic oxide, and

(3) an anchor substance present between the carrier and the catalyst layer that reacts predominantly with said alkali metal ~~in a manner that dominates over~~, whereby any reaction between main components of the carrier and said alkali metal is suppressed and the deterioration of the carrier is suppressed.

21. (Currently Amended) A catalyst body according to Claim 20, wherein the anchor substance that reacts predominantly with the alkali metal~~, dominating over the reaction between the main components of the carrier and the alkali metal~~ is at least one member selected from the group consisting of B, Al, Si, P, S, Cl, Ti, V, Cr, Mn, Ga, Ge, As, Se, Br, Zr, Mo, Sn, Sb, I and W.